

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 /094 W
-----071174 110326Z /64

R 100743Z JUL 78
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7766
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 3038

DEPT PASS OAU COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, OAU, RH, SU
SUBJ: SITHOLE DELEGATION NOT PERMITTED HEARING AT OAU

1. IN RESPONSE TO PRESS INQUIRY, OFFICIAL OAU SPOKESMAN
DR. PETER ONU (ASST SEC GEN FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS) STATED
THAT 7-MEMBER DELEGATION OF REVEREND NDABANINGI SITHOLE'S
ZIMBABWE AFRICAN NATIONAL UNION (ZANU) HAD BEEN REFUSED
ENTRY INTO SUDAN AT AIRPORT BY SUDANESE GOVT (GOS). ONU
WAS UNCERTAIN WHETHER REV. SITHOLE WAS MEMBER OF DELEGATION,
BUT LEFT IMPRESSION THAT HE WAS NOT. ASKED WHETHER GOS HAD
ACTED AT BEHEST OF OAU, ONU REPLIED THAT OAU HAD NOT
REQUESTED GOS TO DENY ENTRY TO DITHOLE DELEGATION, BUT
THAT "SUDAN AS FOUNDING MEMBER OF OAU AND AWARE OF OAU
POLICY TOWARDS COLLABORATORS WITH RACIST ENEMY IAN SMITH,
ACCURATELY REFLECTED MOOD OF OAU."

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2. ONU FURTHER ADDED THAT GOS HAD QUESTIONED ROLE SITHOLE
DELEGATION MIGHT PLAY GIVEN OAU ATTITUDE (REFTEL) AND THAT
GOS HAD THOUGHT SITHOLE DELEGATION PRESENCE "WOULD ONLY
CREATE CONFUSION AMONG OAU DELEGATES AS THEY HAD ATTEMPTED
TO DO IN TRIPOLI." ONU SAID IT WAS OBJECT OF KHARTOUM
MEETINGS TO DEMONSTRATE SUPPORT FOR PATRIOTIC FRONT AND

NOT TO LEND ANY LEGITIMACY TO THOSE WHO "COLLABORATE WITH THE ENEMY IAN SMITH."

3. HOWEVER, ONU ONCE AGAIN STATED THAT OAU WAS NOT OPPOSED TO POLITICAL SOLUTION OF ZIMBABWE PROBLEM AND EXPRESSED HOPE THAT ALL PARTY CONFERENCE COULD STILL BE HELD. SUBSEQUENT TO ONU PRESS BRIEFING SUDAN NEWS AGENCY (SUNA) REPORTED THAT 4-MEMBER ZANU DELEGATION (NOT 7) OF 2 MEN AND 2 WOMEN ARRIVED IN KHARTOUM JULY 7 FROM ROME VIA CAIRO ON ALITALIA FLIGHT. PRESS SOURCES CLAIM THAT DELEGATION RECEIVED SUDANESE CREDENTIALS AND PROCEEDED TO OAU CONFERENCE HALL MORNING JULY 8 BUT WERE DENIED ACCESS. SOURCES FURTHER CLAIM THAT 4 PERSONS ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART KHARTOUM JULY 9. SUNA NAMED 4 PERSONS, ONE OF WHOM IS ZANU'S DEPUTY MILITARY COMMANDER DENNIS SAMBO, BUT OTHER 3 APPEAR TO BE UNKNOWN TO GENERALLY WELL INFORMED OBSERVERS OF RHODESIAN DEVELOPMENTS.

4. MORNING JULY 9 COM APPARENTLY DEBATED WHETHER TO LISTEN TO ZANU DELEGATION OR NOT, WITH FRANCOPHONE MEMBERS ARGUING IN FAVOR OF LISTENING TO DELEGATION. HOWEVER, IT DOES NOT APPEAR THAT ZANU WILL SPEAK AT COM BECAUSE CONFERENCE WAS ABLE TO PROCEED WITH AGENDA BUSINESS. CONTRADICTORY STORIES ABOUT SITHOLE DELEGATION PRESENCE HAVE PROBABLY AFFECTED ONU'S CREDIBILITY WITH PRESS SOMEWHAT, BUT HIS POSITION AS OAU SPOKESMAN HAS CONFIDENTIAL

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PROBABLY NOT SUFFERED. IT IS CLEAR THAT OAU AS INSTITUTION DOES NOT WISH TO HEAR ZANU ARGUMENTS, DESPITE INDIVIDUAL MEMBER STATES' OBJECTIONS. (N.B. U.K. HAS SENT TO KHARTOUM SPECIAL ADVISER ON AFRICA OF FONSEC OWEN, DENNIS GRIGGIN, TO LOBBY WITH OAU FONMIN'S ON BEHALF OF ANGLO-AMERICAN PROPOSALS FOR SOUTHERN RHODESIA. GRIGGIN KNOWS PERSONALLY NUMBER OF FONMIN'S AND HOPES TO MEET WITH NYERERE AND PATRIOTIC FRONT DELEGATION.) BERGUS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED TO OAU COLLECTIVE.

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MEETING REPORTS, MEETING DELEGATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 jul 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978KHARTO03038
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780282-1071
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780780/aaaacpik.tel
Line Count: 105
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 0e86e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2071827
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SITHOLE DELEGATION NOT PERMITTED HEARING AT OAU
TAGS: PORG, RH, SU, OAU, (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/0e86e378-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014